

## H.B. 362 – Transportation Infrastructure Funding

**Sponsor – Representative Johnny Anderson / Floor Sponsor – Senator Al Jackson**

H.B. 362 is a comprehensive approach to addressing part of the funding shortfall identified in Utah's Unified Transportation Plan. The bill reforms the state gas tax and authorizes a local option transportation sales tax to allow for priority investments in state and local roads, transit and bike facilities. It will help Utah preserve our current infrastructure and accommodate our projected population growth. There are two main provisions in the bill:

### 1. Gas Tax Reform and Increase: change the state gas tax from the current 24.5 cents per gallon to a percentage

- Effective January 1, 2016, the bill would convert the current 24.5 cents per gallon state gas tax to a 12 percent tax with a \$2.45 rack price floor. This is the equivalent of an immediate 5 cents per gallon increase.
- Just like any sales tax, as the price of fuel changes the amount of revenue would change. This would help to address the decline in buying power of the cents per gallon tax, which due to inflation has lost 40 percent of its buying power since 1997 (effectively making a 24.5 cents per gallon tax in 1997 worth only 14.7 cents per gallon today).
- To limit potential price volatility there would be a floor and a fixed ceiling set on the tax so that it could not go below or above certain levels.

### 2. Local Option Transportation Sales Tax: give local communities a tool to address their needs

- Counties are authorized to enact a 0.25% general sales tax for transportation after voter approval. This is the equivalent of 25 cents for every hundred dollars.
- In areas with transit service, the funds would be allocated as follows:
  - 0.10% to the transit provider
  - 0.10% to cities, towns and unincorporated county areas
  - 0.05% to the county
- In areas without transit service, the funds would be allocated as follows:
  - 0.10% to cities, towns and unincorporated county areas
  - 0.15% to the county

## Benefits of H.B. 362

We all benefit from a well-functioning and well-maintained transportation system. This comprehensive approach to transportation will improve our air quality, support our vibrant economy and enhance our overall quality of life.

- **Real reform** – H.B. 362 converts the cents per gallon tax to a percentage so that the buying power of the tax keeps pace with inflation.
- **Rural Needs** – Gives UDOT funding for rural state roads and bridges with a 5 cent per gallon increase.
- **Clean Air** – Allows for additional transit service and local improvements to bike and pedestrian infrastructure that would reduce approx. 33,000 car trips per day and prevent 200 tons of emissions.
- **Local Needs** – Provides cities and counties tools to address their needs.
- **Provides options** – By providing funding for roads, transit and biking, the bill will help to maintain our current infrastructure and provide transportation options as our population continues to grow.



## Year in Review 2014

In 2014, the Basin Transit Association continued its mission of connecting citizens of the Uintah Basin to work, health care, and educational activities. Many accomplishments were achieved in the previous year, including, increased ridership, the installation of new benches and shelter, and the providing transportation to Paddle Fest and Holly Days. The Basin Transit Association looks forward to a successful 2015!

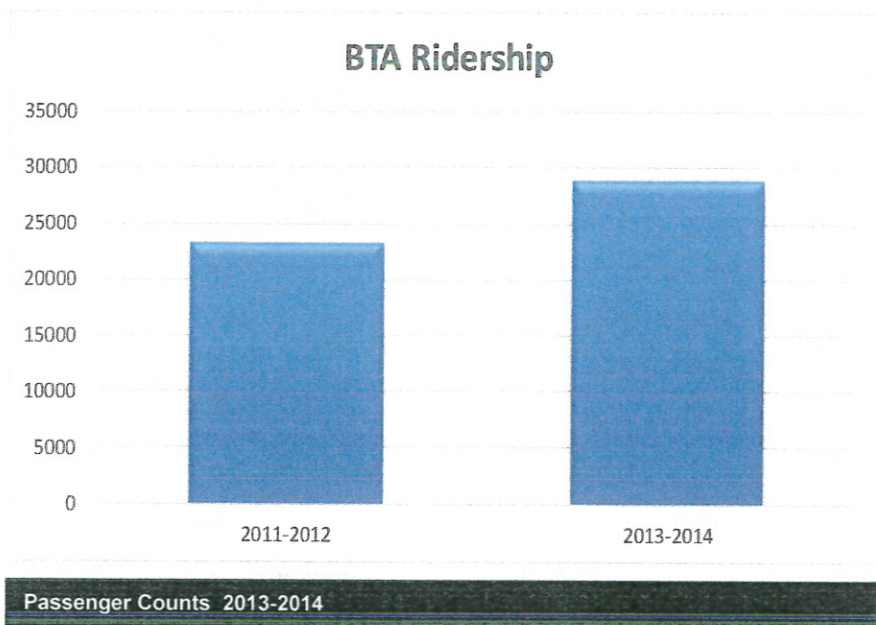
### 2014 Highlights:

- A. Increased Ridership
- B. Providing Transportation for  
2014 Paddle Fest and 2014  
Holly Days
- C. Installation of New Benches and  
Shelter
- D. Newly Ordered Buses ready for  
CNG Conversion



Vernal Town Center Bus Stop





## Increased Ridership

2014 was yet another successful year for ridership in the Basin Transit Association. From the previous year, more individuals found themselves riding the BTA. Throughout the year many studies and surveys were conducted to better understand how to meet the demands of individuals using the service.

As the surveys were tabulated, the BTA discovered the three main reasons for riding the service were:

1. Employment Related Activities
2. Education
3. Shopping

## Plans to Increase BTA Ridership

As the BTA continues to grow, the need to market what is available becomes important for the future of the service provided. As a result, BTA staff has continued to market targeted populations to increase the amount of individuals using the service. Further, from training seminars, to social media, BTA has worked tirelessly to spread the word about the services provided. The targeted population includes:

1. Elderly 65+ years in age
2. Disabled Individuals
3. Minorities
4. Low Income Individuals

## 2015 and Beyond...

At the start of the New Year, numbers of individuals using the service has continued to be strong. All indications show for another successful year and increase in numbers.

## Paddle Fest & Holly Days

With the invitation from the Uintah County Travel & Tourism, the BTA helped transport individuals during the Paddle Day Festivities. During this time period, the BTA transported over 2,500 passengers!

For the third year in a row, the BTA has helped Vernal City with the transportation of individuals in the Holly Day Festivities. Over the three year period ridership numbers have included:

2012: 902

2013: 991

2014: 1,390





## Donation of Bench Funds

Due to the lack of benches in Vernal, BTA staff solicited funds for the installation of benches and shelters in the Uintah. UTSSD has helped in these efforts, but BTA also looked for other funding sources through private business donations. BTA then began a campaign to solicit more funds.

Within a few weeks Ashely Regional Medical Center, Davis Food and Drug, and the Uintah Basin Medical Center donated funds to support the efforts.

New benches in Vernal include:

- Vernal Town Center
- Basin Clinic
- Davis Food & Drug
- Ashely Regional Medical Center



Ashely Regional Medical Center

## Installation of New Benches and Bus Shelter

In the fall of 2014, the BTA installed six new benches. Three were installed in the Roosevelt area, while three were installed in Vernal.

Moreover, the Roosevelt benches that were installed are located at the Uintah Basin Applied Technology College, Davis Jubilee, and the Senior Crossroads Center. Funds for these benches were donated by the American Petroleum Institute (API) for an Eagle Scout project.

In addition to the Roosevelt benches, BTA has looked for ways to increase benches in the Vernal area. UTSSD has helped with the costs to acquire benches. However, BTA staff also looked for other avenues of revenue to purchase benches and solicited private business for donations. Within a few short weeks, donations arrived. In December of 2014 three bus benches and a bus shelter were installed. Donations from Davis Food and Drug, Ashely Regional Medical Center, and the Basin Clinic made possible to install new benches in Vernal. For this reason, the benches installed were put in these locations.



# Future Considerations

With the growth of the BTA, future considerations are being discussed on how to accomplish long term goals of success.

1. As the new buses for the year will be arriving, what does the BTA need to do in order to use Uintah County employees to convert to CNG vehicles?
2. Where is a location that BTA can use to house the buses and build a garage for the future? Can Uintah County or Vernal City assist?
3. With the legal issues of installing a shelter at Wal-Mart, should the new shelter be put in another location? (Mountain America or Pizza Hut)
4. Which parties should be included in the long term plan for the agency?

## Thank you!

Without the support of our elected officials, special service districts, and community support, none of this would be possible! Thank you!

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about BTA

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